AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for guiding a fibrous material web in machines for at least one of producing and processing the fibrous material web, comprising:

an elastic transfer belt arranged to transfer the fibrous material web between an acceptance region and a delivery region;

a delivery element arranged to deliver the fibrous material web to said elastic transfer belt, wherein, during acceptance of the fibrous material web from said delivery element, said elastic transfer belt is arranged to travel at a same speed as or at only a slightly higher speed than said delivery element;

an accepting element arranged to accept the fibrous material web from said elastic transfer belt, wherein, during delivery of the fibrous material web to said accepting element, said transfer belt is arranged to travel with a same speed as or with only a slightly higher speed than said accepting element,

wherein said elastic transfer belt is ~~driven or slowed~~ arranged to be stretched more ~~during delivery of the fibrous material web to~~ in a region of said accepting element ~~belt~~ than ~~during acceptance of the fibrous material web from~~ in a region of said delivery element.

2. (Original) The apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein said elastic transfer belt is arranged in at least one of a region of a press section for dewatering and a drying section for drying the fibrous material web.

3. (Original) The apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein said fibrous material web comprises one of a paper, cardboard, and tissue web.

4. (Original) The apparatus in accordance with claim 1, further comprising guide rolls arranged to control speeds of said elastic transfer belt;

at least one of said guide rolls being positioned in, or subsequently to, a region of delivery of the fibrous material web by said elastic transfer belt,

at least one other guide roll positioned in, or subsequent to, a region of acceptance of the fibrous material web by said elastic transfer belt,

wherein said at least one guide roll is arranged to rotate faster than said at least one other guide roll.

5. (Original) The apparatus in accordance with claim 4, wherein at least one additional roll is positioned in said region of acceptance of the fibrous material web by said elastic transfer belt has about a same speed as said at least one other guide roll.

6. (Original) The apparatus in accordance with claim 4, wherein said at least one guide roll is positioned behind, relative to a web travel direction, said region of delivery of the fibrous material web to said elastic transfer belt.

7. (Currently amended) The apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein a speed of said elastic transfer belt during said acceptance of the fibrous material web by said elastic transfer belt is about 0.2% to 5.0% lower than during said delivery of the fibrous material web to said ~~acceptance~~ accepting element.

8. (Currently amended) The apparatus in accordance with claim 7, wherein said speed of said elastic transfer belt during said acceptance of the fibrous material web by said elastic transfer belt is about 0.5% to 4.0% lower than during said delivery of the fibrous material web to said ~~acceptance~~ accepting element.

9. (Original) The apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein said elastic transfer belt is arranged to travels between a press section and a drying section.

10. (Original) The apparatus in accordance with claim 9, wherein the fibrous material web is continuously guided by at least one roll or belt in said press section.

11. (Original) The apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein said elastic transfer belt is arranged to at least one of accept the fibrous material web without any open draw from said delivery element and deliver the fibrous material web without any open draw to said accepting element.

12. (Original) The apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein said delivery element comprises one of a roll and a belt.

13. (Original) The apparatus in accordance with claim 12, wherein said delivery

element comprises a press felt.

14. (Original) The apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein said accepting element comprises one of a roll and a belt.

15. (Original) The apparatus in accordance with claim 14, wherein said accepting element comprises one of a drying cylinder and a suctioned roll.

16. (Original) The apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein said elastic transfer belt is permeable.

17. (Original) The apparatus in accordance with claim 16, further comprising suction devices arranged on sides of said elastic transfer belt opposite to the fibrous material web.

18. (Original) The apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein said elastic transfer belt has a smooth surface.

19. (Currently amended) The apparatus in accordance with claim 18, wherein a guide roll is arranged to guide said elastic transfer belt, and said guide roll is positioned between said delivery of the fibrous material web to said ~~acceptance~~ accepting element and said acceptance of the fibrous material web from said delivery element.

20. (Original) The apparatus in accordance with claim 19, wherein said guide roll comprises a suctioned roll.

Claims 21 - 31 (Canceled).

32. (Currently amended) An apparatus for guiding a fibrous material web in machines for at least one of producing and processing the fibrous material web, comprising:

an elastic transfer belt arranged to transfer the fibrous material web between an acceptance region and a delivery region;

a delivery element arranged to deliver the fibrous material web to said elastic transfer belt, wherein, during acceptance of the fibrous material web from said delivery element, said elastic transfer belt is arranged to travel at a same speed as or at only a slightly higher speed than said delivery element;

an accepting element arranged to accept the fibrous material web from said elastic transfer belt, wherein, during delivery of the fibrous material web to said accepting element, said elastic transfer belt is arranged to travel with a same speed as or with only a slightly higher speed than said accepting element;

a first guide roll arranged to drive said elastic transfer belt in a zone of said accepting element;

a second guide roll arranged to drive said elastic transfer belt in a zone of said delivery element;

wherein said first guide roll is structured and arranged to drive said elastic transfer belt, in said zone of said accepting element, at a speed faster than a speed at which said

second guide roll is structured and arranged to drive said elastic transfer belt in said zone of said delivery element.

33. (Currently amended) The apparatus in accordance with claim 32, wherein said elastic transfer belt is structured and arranged to be stretched more in said zone of said accepting element than in said zone of said delivery element.